

and Dr. Sálím Ali confirmed my identification. Sri Humayun Abdulali wrote: 'From the size and colour the specimen appears to be a female in immature plumage'.

The Redheaded Merlin was seen again in the same area later on. Details are given below:

11th June 1958—One seen flying over at 11·00 hrs.

13th „ „ — „ „ „ „ „ 18·40 hrs.

12th April 1959—Two harrying a Brahminy Kite at 18·30 hrs.

13th „ „ —One „ „ „ „ 18·15 hrs.

14th „ „ —One eating a small bird on palmyra tree, 18·00 hrs.

My thanks are due to Sri M. Srinathan Nair, Cochin Nair Bank, Chittur, for having shot one of the falcons for me, and to Sri M. K. Prasad, then Lecturer in Botany, Govt. College, Chittur, for having prepared the skin.

GOVERNMENT COLLEGE,
CHITTUR-COCHIN,
April 15, 1960.

K. K. NEELAKANTAN

REFERENCES

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[The Virus Research Centre at Poona have in their collection a male and a female *Falco chiquera* obtained by B. S. Lamba at Palivada in Krishna District, Andhra State on 17th November 1956.—Eds.]

8. THE BUFFBREASTED SANDPIPER, *TRYNGITES SUBRUFICOLLIS* (VIEILLOT): AN ADDITION TO THE AVIFAUNA OF INDIA AND CEYLON

A specimen collected by Dr. T. S. U. De Zylva on 5 March 1960 at Kalametiya Lagoon was forwarded to me for identification. My identification has been confirmed by the Senior Scientific Officer in the Bird Room at the British Museum (Natural History), London. Sex, unfortunately, unknown.

Kalametiya Lagoon, situated on the southern coast of Ceylon, is bordered by a grass plain on the eastern side which is cropped low by cattle and buffalo. Dr. De Zylva states the bird was seen by itself on this grass plain reminding him of a Golden Plover; on making a closer inspection through binoculars he realised it to be something

new and out of the ordinary. This is the first record of this species from Ceylon, which adds a new bird to the list of our avifauna.

The HANDBOOK OF BRITISH BIRDS gives its distribution as:

'N.W. Nearctic region—breeds on arctic coasts of N. America from N. Alaska to N. Mackenzie. (No proof of breeding in E. Asia) Migrates through N. and Central America to S. America (Argentina and Uruguay; noted on migration N. E. Siberia). Casual in Japan, W. Indies, Bermuda, and accidental in France, Switzerland, Heligoland, Red Sea, and possibly Turkey.

Nineteen specimens have been recorded from the British Isles, mostly in September, but one in May, one July, one August, one October.'

It has no subspecies. It can be distinguished by pink-buff under parts and by the inner webs of the primaries and secondaries being freckled with black, and short, slender, black bill; the head is noticeably rounded.

Dr. De Zylva is to be congratulated on his keen observation thus making this most interesting find possible.

PINGARAWA,
NAMUNUKULA,
CEYLON,
April 14, 1960.

C. E. NORRIS,
F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

9. 'FLAMINGO CITY' RE-VISITED: NESTING OF THE ROSY PELICAN (*PELECANUS ONOCROTALUS* LINNAEUS) IN THE RANN OF KUTCH¹

(With a plate)

Owing to the abnormally heavy rainfall in Kutch during the SW. monsoon of 1959 (in some areas over 60" against the annual average of about 15") the Great Rann was inordinately flooded in March 1960. The marginal area along the base of the rocky range of hills running E.-W., known as Kala Dongar, over which it is possible in normal years to go by jeep from Kotda to Nir was still partially submerged by 20 March, or too wet and treacherous even for jeep traffic. Therefore, in order to reach Nir, the base for Flamingo City, it was necessary to travel camelback from Kakrao Police Outpost near Kuran village—a distance of about 14 miles (3 hours)—over rough stony ground cross-country along the lower contours of Kala Dongar. During more or less the entire camel journey the edge of the Rann